

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6804

BILL NUMBER: HB 1290

NOTE PREPARED: Dec 21, 2006

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: School Discipline.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Harris E

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL
DEDICATED
FEDERAL**

IMPACT: Local

Summary of Legislation: The bill allows a principal to require a student to receive behavioral counseling if the student: (1) is involved in at least two violent altercations at school; and (2) is suspended.

Effective Date: July 1, 2007.

Explanation of State Expenditures:

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: *Summary-* If a principal requires a student to attend counseling, the impact to local expenditures would depend on the ability of the student's guardian or parent to pay for counseling services and whether the school offered to pay if the guardian or parent was not able. Secondly, the impact to local expenditures would depend on what type of counseling the student received (e.g., one-on-one, group session) and where the student received counseling (e.g., hospital, community center, church). School counselors could help mitigate the cost factor involved in a parent's decision by recommending the most appropriate counseling to attend.

Background Information-

Federal and State Funding- Federal and state funds currently provide for counseling services through Medicaid and Health Assurance Plans (HAP) via community mental health centers (CMHCs) and other managed care providers.

There are currently about 30,000 children served by HAP. The eligibility for HAP requires the child's family income to not exceed 200% of the federal poverty level (FPL). It is estimated that approximately 10,000 children needing services that meet the eligibility via 200% of FPL are not currently served. Additionally, HAP funds must go to children categorized as severely emotionally disturbed (SED). Current law requires service providers to enroll and serve eligible children as long as funding is available. There is currently no other source of state funding to serve SED children.

Suspensions/Expulsions- The following table shows the number of suspensions and expulsions for 2004-2005 school year.

Grade	Total Suspensions	Expulsions
Pre-Kindergarten	22	0
Kindergarten	1,319	2
First	3,606	5
Second	4,267	4
Third	5,974	17
Fourth	8,064	21
Fifth	11,783	51
Sixth	33,417	276
Seventh	50,320	701
Eighth	49,733	1,098
Ninth	57,777	1,618
Tenth	39,239	1,165
Eleventh	25,673	837
Twelfth	15,757	475

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected:

Local Agencies Affected: Schools.

Information Sources: Cheryl Shearer, Family and Social Services Agency, 317-232-7934; Dee Kempson, Department of Education, 317-232-9111; DOE SAS AND ORACLE DATABASES.

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